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FIGHTIN' MARINES

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FIGHTIN' MARINES

NO. 114
OCT.
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ONLY
20¢
UK 6p

00066

...ALL THEY NEEDED WAS THE OLD..

GUNG HO!

DAY OF RECKONING

IN FEBRUARY, 1942, 17 YEAR OLD BOBBY COSGROVE ENLISTED IN THE U.S. MARINE CORPS! HE WAS THIN AND ON THE PUNY SIDE BUT AMERICA WAS FIGHTING A WAR ON TWO FRONTS....SO THE MARINES TOOK HIM....BUT HE WASN'T AS RUGGED AS THE REST OF THE MARINES IN HIS BOOT CAMP COMPANY!.... THE D.I., SGT. MAX BELLOWS, SEEMED TO ENJOY MAKING BOBBY COSGROVE'S LIFE MISERABLE!

DON'T TELL **ME** YA CAN'T MAKE IT, BOOT! GET YOUR TAIL ACROSS THAT SWAMPWATER **RIGHT NOW!**

SOME DAY THAT SLOB'S GONNA **GET IT!**

DRILL INSTRUCTORS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE TOUGH .... **HE'S INSANE!**

BOBBY COSGROVE, MARINE, WAS ONLY A BOY ONCE HE WAS IN HIS BUNK AND THE LIGHTS WERE OUT.... STIFLING HIS SOBS IN THE DARKNESS!

I WON'T LET HIM BREAK ME.... I'D BE SO ASHAMED!

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nomscans

OTHER D.I.S SAW SGT. BELLOWS PUTTING HIS PLATOON THROUGH THEIR PACES....

TOO SLOW, BOOT! FOR THAT DO TWENTY MORE PUSH-UPS!

GOT A MINUTE, SERGEANT?

YOU'RE PICKING ON THAT KID, BELLOWS! I KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TOUGHEN THEM UP BUT YOU'RE TRYING TO **DESTROY** HIM!

BUG OFF, CONROY! NOBODY TELLS ME HOW TO DRILL MY PLATOON!

YOU MEET ME OUT BEHIND THE N.C.O. CLUB AFTER CHOW TONIGHT, BELLOWS, AND I'LL KNOCK YOUR FANGS RIGHT DOWN YOUR THROAT!

LAY A HAND ON ME, CONROY, AND I'LL PUT YOU ON REPORT!

THE ENDLESS AGONY WENT ON....IT FINALLY ENDED ONE NIGHT WHEN DRILL INSTRUCTOR SGT. BELLOWS TOOK HIS PLATOON ON A NIGHT MARCH....WITH FULL COMBAT PACKS!

YOU'RE SICK, BOB! YOU OUGHTA GO TO SICK BAY!

I WOULDN'T GIVE THE D.I. THE SATISFACTION, JIM!

I'M GONNA MAKE YA **BEG**, COSGROVE! YA'LL CRY LIKE A BABY... AN' THEN I'M GONNA SEE YA BUSTED OUT OF THE CORPS!

THE MARINES WERE TOUGH THEN JUST AS THEY ARE NOW! BOOT TRAINING WAS RUGGED..... UNDER SOME D.I.S IT WAS WORSE THAN OTHERS!

MOVE IT, YA PUNKS!

COSGROVE, KEEP GOING OR I'LL SLING YOUR TAIL INTO THE BRIG!

HE'S SICK, D.I.! LET ME TAKE HIS FIELD PACK!

GET MOVIN', BOOT, OR YOU'LL BE SICKER THAN HIM !!

GET ON YOUR FEET, COSGROVE! LET ME HELP YOU!

TH-THANKS, SERGEANT!

YEAH, YOU **ARE** SORTA RUBBER-LEGGED! MAYBE YA **DON'T** FEEL SO GOOD!

I THINK I'VE GOT A FEV....

NOW, FER **SURE** YOU'RE SICK!

OFF!

THUD

THE MEDICS TOOK COSGROVE TO SIC BAY....HE HAD A FEVER AND WAS DELIRIOUS FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS! WHEN HE WAS ABLE TO TALK.... HE WANTED TO TELL SOMEONE BUT....

YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOUR DAYS, COSGROVE! THE DOCTOR SAYS TO KEEP YOU HERE ANOTHER WEEK !!

B-BUT .... MY PLATOON ?

WHEN YOU GET OUT, YOU'LL START BOOT TRAINING ALL OVER AGAIN, COSGROVE!

THE D.I. DID THIS TO ME... SOME DAY I'LL GET EVEN !

COSGROVE GREW UP SOME TIME IN THE NEXT TEN DAYS! WHEN HE STARTED BOOT TRAINING AGAIN, HE WAS QUIET.... AND MUCH TOUGHER!

I SAW SGT. BELLOWS DRILLING HIS NEW PLATOON.... HE'S EVEN WORSE WITH THEM!

WHY DO THEY LET ANIMALS LIKE HIM STAY IN THE CORPS!

HE'LL GET WEEDED OUT, BOOT!

NOW, POLICE THE AREA FOR POPPIN' OFF ABOUT A D.I. !

AT LAST, IN AUGUST, 1942, BOOT CAMP WAS OVER AND MARINE PFC. R. C. COSGROVE WAS ASSIGNED TO AN OUTFIT HEADING OVERSEAS....

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

PFC COSGROVE WAS ASSIGNED TO AN OUTFIT THAT HAD BEEN CHEWED UP AT GUADALCANAL! THEY PRACTICED LANDINGS ON FRIENDLY BEACHES....

COSGROVE'S FIRST COMBAT CAME AT TARAWA... WHEN THE MARINES LOST 984 DEAD AND TOOK 2,072 CASUALTIES, MANY OF THEM IN THE SURF BEFORE THEY GOT TO DRY LAND....

317

691

RELEASE THE RAMP.... WE'RE AGROUND!

HEAD FOR SHORE... WE CAN'T TURN BACK NOW !!

TZ-ING

TIM O

THEY REACHED THE BEACH....AND COSGROVE PUT TO GOOD USE THE TOUGH MARINE TRAINING HE'D RECEIVED!

KRAKOW

I WAS JUST THINKIN', BUDDY.... REMEMBER BELLOWS, THE D.I.?

I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SLOB, COSGROVE, WHY?

IN A WAY, HE DID ME A FAVOR.... NONE OF THIS IS AS TOUGH AS WHAT I WENT THROUGH WITH HIM IN BOOT CAMP!

THEY HIT SAIPAN...THEN TINIAN....COSGROVE WAS A TOUGH MARINE ALL THE WAY!

COVER FOR ME, REB!

THEY TOOK CASUALTIES! SGT. COSGROVE, OLDER THAN HIS TWENTY YEARS, GOT REPLACEMENTS FOR HIS SQUAD....THEY KNEW THAT IWO JIMA WAS COMING AND IT WOULD BE A BITTER FIGHT!

SGT. COSGROVE? I'M A REPLACEMENT FOR YOUR SQUAD!!

YOUR FACE.... HOLD IT! YOU'RE MAX BELLOWS! I FIGURED YOU'D BE A TOP JOE BY NOW, BELLOWS!

YEAH, WELL...I GOT COURT MARTIALED! I DON'T REMEMBER YOU, SARGE!

I REMEMBER **YOU**, D.I.! AND YOU'RE GONNA REMEMBER **ME!**

IT WAS NOTHIN' PERSONAL, SARGE! I WAS DOIN' MY JOB!

YOU'RE A LIAR, BELLOWS! YOU ENJOYED TORTURIN' YOUNG, SCARED KIDS....BUT YOU'RE GONNA **PAY! I'LL SEE TO THAT!**

COGGROVE HAD BELLOWS UNDER HIS EYE...HE LED HIS SQUAD ASHORE AT IWO JIMA AND....

I **CAN'T** GO WITH YOU, COGGROVE! I'LL G-GET KILLED!

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TA

SO WHAT? BETTER MEN THAN YOU ARE GONNA DIE HERE TODAY! NOW, GET MOVIN' OR I'LL KILL YA MYSELF!

KABOOM

COME ON!

N-NO I CAN'T !!

THE PLATOON LEADER, LT. JONES, SAW BELLOWS QUIT... HE SENT HIM BACK TO THE TRANSPORT TO BE DIS-CHARGED FROM THE CORPS!

COSGROVE WAS SENT BACK TOO... BUT HE'D HAD THE REVENGE HE'D PRAYED FOR...

YOU WERE WOUNDED BECAUSE BELLOWS, CHICKENED OUT, BOB!

I KNOW, LT. ... I'M GLAD IT HAPPENED THAT WAY... I ALWAYS KNEW HE WAS YELLOW!!

END

THERE'S ONE in every CROWD

MARINE CPL. JIGS LOWERY WAS THE BEST RIFLE SHOT IN THE COMPANY SO CAPT. KLEIN GAVE HIM THE SNIPER'S RIFLE AND SENT HIM UP TO THE HIGH GROUND TO HARASS THE JAPS. HE CLIMBED A TOWERING PALM ON THE RIDGE BEFORE DAWN, GOT COMFORTABLE, THEN AS THE SUN CAME UP HE....

ZING

THE MARINE MARKSMAN TRIED TO JUSTIFY WHAT HE WAS DOING....

I HATE THIS ASSIGNMENT... BUT, AS THE SKIPPER SAID, SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO IT!

THAT GUY NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM...NOW, THE REST OF THEM WON'T MAN THAT GUN...SOME OF OUR GUYS WON'T GET KILLED!

NICHOLAS BIASCIA

D-5039

KRAK

THE JAPANESE KNEW A SNIPER WAS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE...THEY TRIED TO LOCATE HIM WITH BINOCULARS.....

THEN, THE JAPANESE SENTRY SAW THE SUNLIGHT REFLECTED FROM A HIGHLY POLISHED LENS! HE STARTED TO YELL TO HIS COMRADES AND.....

...DIED

I'VE SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN TREES LATELY I'M GROWIN' A TAIL, SKIPPER!

WELL, CLIMB DOWN AND COME IN FOR SOME HOT CHOW!

I WILL...AFTER ONE LAST LOOK AT HAPPY HARRY!

GUYS LIKE HAPPY HARRY DON'T BELONG IN THE ARMY...

I WOULDN'T WANT LOWERY'S JOB...BEIN' A SNIPER IS A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR MY STOMACH!

I GUESS I'M NOT A GOOD MARINE EITHER...

MAYBE I SHOULD'VE PUT A SLUG IN-TO HAPPY HARRY....I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO KNOCK THE POOR GUY OFF!

CONTINUED TER FOLLOWING PAGE

LATER, AFTER A HOT MEAL....

GRAB SOME SHUT-EYE, CORPORAL! I WANT YOU TO GET SOME CHOW EARLY TOMORROW AND PACK A LUNCH! BE UP IN THAT TREE BEFORE DAWN! THE JAPS ARE UP TO SOMETHING!

AYE, AYE, SKIPPER!

NEXT MORNING....

IF I JUST *TOUCH* THE TRIGGER...HAPPY HARRY WILL BE KAPUT!

THAT'S WHY I'M UP HERE...BUT I JUST CAN'T DO IT!

CPL. LOWERY STOWED HIS GEAR AND GOT COMFORTABLE IN THE CROWN OF THE TREE, THEN LOOKED AROUND! THE FIRST JAP HE SAW WAS.... HAPPY HARRY!

LOWERY SAW THE COMMANDANT HARANGUING HIS TROOPS... HE WISHED HE COULD READ LIPS! BUT HE KNEW ONE THING.. ...THE JAPS WERE ABOUT TO MAKE A MOVE!

THE JAP C.O. IS COMMITTING HIS RESERVES, SIR! LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE COMIN' TOWARD THIS RIDGE!

STAY PUT AS LONG AS YOU CAN, LOWERY! KEEP ME INFORMED ON ENEMY TROOP MOVE-MENTS!

LOWERY SCANNED THE AREA...HE SAW A TOUGH JAPANESE PLATOON LEADER URGE HIS MEN FORWARD..

ZIP

LOWERY AD-JUSTED HIS AIM... THE CROSS-HAIRS WERE LEFT OF CENTER AND A LITTLE HIGH AS HE SQUEEZED OFF A ROUND AND FELT THE RIFLE RECOIL AGAINST HIS SHOULDER!

THERE'S HAPPY HARRY AGAIN... LOOKS LIKE FUN-AND-GAME TIMES ARE OVER FOR HIM!

TELL THE ARTILLERY WE'VE GOT TARGETS FOR THEM! JAP TANKS... LOWERY WILL DO THE SPOTTING FOR THEM!

CORDINATES ITEM NINER SEVEN FIVE GEORGE ZERO SIX SIX.

WHEN THE JAP TANKS RUMBLED OUT OF THE BRUSH ABOUT SIX HUNDRED YARDS NORTH, LOWERY CALLED IT IN.....

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

BLAM

BLAM

WHAM

HOLD FIRE ON THE THE TANKS...THERE WERE THREE HITS.. THE OTHERS TURNED BACK!

JAP INFANTRY MOVING FORWARD ...THEY'RE ON THIS RIDGE NOW.. IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO PULL OUT NOW!

LOWERY WAS SAFE FROM JAPS...BUT THERE WAS DANGER IN ANOTHER DIRECTION!

JAP...HE SEES ME, HE.... *I'M HIT!*

RAT-A-TAT-TAT!

MY GUT... IT'S ON FIRE!

WHEN LOWERY HIT THE JUNGLE FLOOR, HE THOUGHT EVERY BONE IN HIS BODY WAS BROKEN....

OH, NO.... HAPPY HARRY...I SHOULD'VE SHOT HIM!

HE'S GONNA USE A KNIFE MAYBE?

HE'S NOT GONNA FINISH ME OFF...

LATER, WHEN LOWERY WAS IN THE BASE HOSPITAL WITH SEVERAL BROKEN BONES AND A SEVERE INTESTINAL WOUND, HE TOLD THE SKIPPER HE'D BE BACK BUT....

NO MORE SNIPER DUTY, SKIPPER! EVERY TIME I THINK HOW CLOSE I CAME TO KILLIN' THAT JAP, I FEEL SICK!

END

THE THIRD PLATOON HAD STORMED ASHORE AT GUADALCANAL..THEN FOUGHT AGAIN AT SAIPAN AND OTHER PLACES.. AND AS SGT. HAWK EVANS SAID..THEY WERE AS TOUGH AS ANY OUTFIT IN THE CORPS! THEN, THEY GOT THEIR NEW PLATOON LEADER.. 2ND LT. MILES RENNIE.. AN IVY LEAGUE GRADUATE WHO NEVER CUSSED, LOST HIS TEMPER OR ACTED LIKE A MARINE!

MARINES OF THE THIRD PLATOON, REMEMBER THE OLD MARINE SLOGAN OF 'GUNG HO'.. IT'S CHINESE AND MEANS "WE MUST WORK TOGETHER!"

WE WERE DOIN' THAT WHEN YOU WERE A WET-NOSED COLLEGE KID LIEUTENANT!

I DEMAND A LITTLE RESPECT, SERGEANT!

THAT'S EXACTLY HOW MUCH YOU GOT... SIR!

WE DON'T LIKE GUNG HO PEP TALKS FROM NINETY DAY WONDERS, SIR!

I'LL HAVE YOU COURT MARTIALED, SGT. EVANS!

PAT BOYETTE/.

THE OLD GUNG HO!

D-5141

YOU MEN HEARD THIS MAN SPEAK DISRESPECTFULLY TO HIS PLATOON COMMANDER! YOU WILL BE CALLED UP AS WITNESSES!

NONE OF US HEARD NOTHIN', LIEUTENANT!

LT. EVANS WENT TO CAPT. HOFFMAN, COMMANDING CHARLIE COMPANY....

EVANS WAS RIGHT, RENNIE!

BUT HE WAS INSUBORDINATE, CAPTAIN!

I KNOW THAT! AFTER THE SPEECH YOU DESCRIBED, I'M SURPRISED THE WHOLE PLATOON DIDN'T LAUGH IN YOUR FACE! YOU'VE GOT A **COMBAT PLATOON!** ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS A PURPLE HEART ..ALL YOU'VE GOT IS A COLLEGE DIPLOMA!

THEY TRAINED..LT. RENNIE DROVE HIS PLATOON HARD....

DOUBLE TIME... MARCH...

HERE WE GO, MARINES...

HOW COME WE STOPPED, PLATOON LEADER? WHERE'S THE OLD GUNG HO?

LAY OFF, SERGEANT!

PUFF PUFF

2.

THEY TRAINED.. AND THE PLATOON KNEW ANOTHER INVASION WAS COMING SOON! SGT. EVANS AND HIS VETERAN'S SPECULATED ON WHICH JAP-HELD ISLAND IT WOULD BE...

MAYBE WE'LL HIT OKINAWA THIS TIME, SARGE!

NAH... WE'RE NOT READY TO INVADE THAT CLOSE TO JAPAN YET! MY GUESS IS THIS ONE!

IWO JIMA? NEVER HEARD OF IT!

BONIN

WHAT DO WE WANT WITH THAT ROCK?

IWO JIMA

MARIANAS

THE JAPS HAVE FIGHTER PLANES ON IWO JIMA.. THEY ATTACK SUPER-FORTRESSES ON THE TOKYO BOMB RUNS! WE GOTTA HAVE IWO!

VERY INTERESTING, SERGEANT.. ..AND VERY IMPROBABLE! NOW, GET OUT OF THIS TENT ..AND DON'T TRESPASS HERE AGAIN!

SO, NATURALLY...

HEY, LIEUTENANT, GUESS WHERE WE'RE GOIN'!

THAT'S RIGHT, LIEUTENANT... IWO JIMA!

20

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

CAPTAIN HOFFMAN, C.O. OF CHARLIE COMPANY. LEVELED WITH SGT. EVANS AND THE VETERANS IN THE THIRD PLATOON....

GET OF RENNIE'S BACK, EVANS! I KNOW HE'S INEXPERIENCED, BUT HE'LL LEARN IF YOU GIVE HIM A CHANCE!

YEAH, BUT HE COULD GET US ALL KILLED FIRST, SKIPPER!

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, HAWK! IF HE GOOFS, I'LL KNOW IT! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU GUYS!

STARTING FEB. 16, 1945, BATTLESHIPS AND HEAVY CRUISERS BEGAN BOMBARDING IWO JIMA IN THE HEAVIEST NAVAL BOMBARDMENT EVER THROWN AGAINST SUCH A SMALL AREA! THE MARINES WOULD HIT THE BEACH AT DAWN THREE DAYS LATER...

MORE THAN 75,000 MARINES WERE ABOARD THE TRANSPORTS WITH 30,000 ARMY TROOPS IN SUPPORT! THEY HIT THE BEACH THE MORNING OF FEB. 19!

LET'S GO, MEN!

KEEP LOW, YOU GUYS! WE WON'T DO ANYONE ANY GOOD DEAD!

GET DOWN! THAT M.G. IS LOOKIN' DOWN OUR THROATS!

SOMEONE HAS TO KNOCK IT OUT, SERGEANT!

SEND A COUPLE OF MEN TO NEUTRALIZE THAT GUN, SERGEANT!

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, RENNIE!

QUICKLY, SGT. EVANS MOVED TO A POSITION OF COVER.. PULLED THE PIN FROM A GRENADE, AND...

GET A MOVE ON, LIEUTENANT... WE'RE MOVIN' UP!

HUH.. I DIDN'T ORDER..

HAWK EVANS HAD DEPLOYED THE PLATOON IN THE JAPANESE GUN EMPLACE-MENTS... NOW THEY HAD SOME COVER:..

WE'LL BE OKAY HERE FOR AWHILE, LIEUTENANT! YOU'D BETTER USE THE WALKIE-TALKIE AND REPORT IN TO THE SKIPPER!

REPORT? OH.. YES! THAT'S RIGHT!

YES, CAPTAIN.. WE MOVED IN FROM THE BEACH... SGT. EVANS DEPLOYED THE MEN!

LISTEN TO HAWK EVANS, RENNIE! HE'S BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE.. HE KNOWS WHAT TO DO...

COME ON, THE PLATOON'S ON HIGH GROUND!

THEY TOOK CASUALTIES. DAVIS WAS KILLED, SO WERE MAJESKI AND ROGERS.. AND HALF A DOZEN MORE WOUNDED SERIOUSLY....

WE'D BETTER DIG IN RIGHT HERE, LIEUTENANT! THE JAPS'LL COME AT US SCREAMING **BANZAI** AS SOON AS IT GETS DARK!

I AM AWARE OF THAT, SERGEANT!

THE SKIPPER SAYS TAKE HAWK EVANS' ADVICE.. EVANS ACTS LIKE HE'S PLATOON LEADER INSTEAD OF ME! I'M SICK OF IT!

HELP JOE... I'M HURT...

SOMEONE'S OUT THERE...

HELP

IF NOBODY ELSE WILL HELP HIM, I...

GET BACK IN YOUR HOLE, RENNIE! THAT'S A JAP!

WATCH WHEN I TOSS THIS IN HIS LAP!

HOLD IT, SERGEANT! THAT'S AN ORDER!

SEE, RENNIE? JAPS!

MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF AGAIN! I'LL NEVER BE RESPECTED BY MY PLATOON!

THE FIGHTING GOT TOUGHER ON IWO JIMA.. TWO WEEKS LATER, ELEVEN MEN WERE LEFT.. SGT. HAWKS WAS STILL GOING AND SO WAS LT. RENNIE!

THIS PLATOON'S LOSIN' TOO MANY GOOD MEN, LIEUTENANT!

GO SEE THE CHAPLAIN... I DIDN'T START THIS WAR!

I'VE LISTENED TO YOUR GRIPES 'TILL I'M SICK OF THEM, EVANS! ONCE WE GET ABOARD A TRANSPORT... I'M TURNING IN MY BARS AND THEN YOU AND ME ARE GONNA TANGLE!

RENNIE'S TOUGHENIN' UP, IRISH! HE REALLY WANTS TO FEED HAWK EVANS A KNUCKLE SANDWICH!

YEH!

THEN THEY ASSAULTED A SLOPE... AT THE TOP - A PILLBOX HELD TWO MACHINE GUNS AND A HEAVY MORTAR! THE 3RD PLATOON WAS IN THE GRINDER AGAIN!

THIS KID NEVER GOT TO FIRE HIS MI!

LOOK.. RENNIE'S GOIN' UP THE HILL ALL BY HIMSELF!

THE PLATOON LEADER WAS HALFWAY TO THE PILLBOX WHEN EVANS SPOTTED HIM!

LAY SOME COVERING FIRE ON THAT PILLBOX!

AH!

RENNIE GOT THE PILLBOX.. HE'S SOME KINDA PLATOON LEADER!

LISTEN TO HAWK! .. A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO.. HE WAS ALL FOR SENDIN' THE SECOND JAWN BACK TO HARVARD!

YE.

SO LT. RENNIE BECAME THE LEADER OF THE THIRD PLATOON ..THE HARD WAY.. ON IWO JIMA!

The END

THE WORKHORSE

AWINGGOES

SUDDENLY...THE UNITED STATES WAS IN A SHOOTING WAR... **AND** WE WERE NOT PREPARED TO MEET THE JAPANESE CONQUEST IN THE PACIFIC! THE NIPPONESE ZERO WAS RIPPING US TO SHREDS...

AIR

D-5344

AMERICA RUSHED INTO WAR PRODUCTION MANY COMPROMISE FIGHTER CONCEPTS! THE RESULTING FAILURES WERE MANY AND FRUSTRATING!

THE UNDERCARRIAGE STRUTS JUST WON'T HOLD IT!

THEN CAME THE **F4U CORSAIR** WHICH ACHIEVED ASCENDENCY OVER THE JAPANESE AND NEVER LOST IT...

THE CORSAIR WAS A RUGGED-VERSATILE MACHINE.. IT WAS A **WORKHORSE**, AND PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN TAKING THE STING OUT OF THE JAPANESE WARLORDS!

END.

GEN. KNOWETT in...

HIDDEN MIKE

We have asked one of the leading military authorities in the world to write a special column for this publication. It will consist of answers to questions you may send General Knowett about any branch of service here, abroad, wars, past and present, weapons or anything else related that you wish to know. Make your letters brief. However, if you are in the military service you can even tell us of some experiences you may have had fighting. Please write legibly. There will be no personal replies. From your letters, one will be chosen to be answered in this publication.

****

General Knowett:

I was reading the newspapers how a group of men tried to bug the offices where they figured they could get a lot of information. Anyway, they got caught. And some will go to jail. Now there is something about this bugging I would like to know. I read a lot of war and spy stories. And how the enemy agents try to get a lot of information from us. So they bug rooms and offices. Does it really take place? Have you really got such good equipment as to foal us? And if it isn't a secret, what do we do to protect ourselves from them?

Thanks a million,
Peter J.

****

Dear PeterJ:

It really takes place. There are enemy agents who want to discover secrets. At least that is what they hope they will overhear. The other word for "bugging" is "eavesdropping." Actually it is possible to have a form of eavesdropping without the use of any electronic equipment. It is a warm day. Two men are in a room. The window is open. They are facing the street and talking. Across is another building. In it is a man watching the movements of their lips very carefully. Another man is using a motion picture camera with telescopic lens, and he is taking pictures of the lips movements. The expert in lip reading will try to figure out what they are saying!

Our State Department's Deputy Assistant for Security is Mr. G. Marvin Gentile. It is his responsibility to safeguard our missions overseas. In an interview dealing with the undercover intelligence that goes on abroad he came up with some startling revelations. It concerned a very important U.S. diplomat. The maid took out his shoes to be repaired. Sure, they were repaired! A miniature transmitter was secretly placed in the heel of one of his shoes. We have the best modern detection outfits in the world. And it soon was discovered that when he was talking - he was broadcasting to somebody not too far away. The transmitting waves were then pinpointed right down to that heel.

Into a binder holding samples was introduced a miniature transmitter. The idea was to get it into our embassy room in a certain Communist East European country. It had a broadcasting range of 400 yards. So that enemy agents in a parked car could pick up any conversation. It was spotted before it got into that room.

Remember, there are no wires connecting the pick-up unit with the receiver outside. At one time a popular spy tactic was to hide microphones in our U.S. embassies abroad. And then link them by wire to outside listening posts. Actually in 1964, we spotted and removed 52 microphones from our embassy in Moscow. And in Warsaw we discovered 55. However, technological advances of electronics and miniaturization have these wired systems obsolete. Which give our experts a perpetual headache.

For it means you must be on the guard 24 hours of each day. And there must be a constant checking up of every room where our top men meet and discuss matters. For some visitor can drop one of these miniature units somewhere and it will pick up the conversation. And that also means there must be a constant and careful surveillance of everyone who has contact with the embassy building. The repair man, be he a plumber or electrician, will have a chance to enter and conceal one of these units. And a delivery man will also have the same opportunity.

But the weakest link in this espionage set-up, is the fact that we too can have a constant listening post. So that if one of these hidden units would start to broadcast, we can pick it up. Alas, the flowers that the woman is carrying - may have a concealed transmitter hidden in them!

Cordially yours,
General Knowett.

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If you wish to write a letter to General Knowett, address it:

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Derby, Conn.